

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/643,714

Examiner

Patricia L Engle

Applicant(s)

WILLARD, MICHAEL T.

Art Unit

3612

*WJ*

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the election on July 16, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9 and 17-39.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/12/04;4/19/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

*Patricia Engle  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3612  
9-16-04*

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Monte Falcoff on September 16, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please cancel claims 10-16;

In claim 33, line 2, please change "hand-top" to --hard-top--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this application is that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest a convertible roof system comprising a front roof section; a rear roof section; a top stack mechanism and a primary actuator coupled to the top stack mechanism serving to move the roof sections between retracted and raised positions and a supplemental actuator to operably move at least a portion of the roof section toward each other after a majority of roof retraction has occurred to more closely store together the fully retracted roof sections. Miklosi et al. (US Patent 6,425,621) discloses a convertible roof system with two actuators to move the roof from the raised to the retracted positions. Miklosi et al. do not disclose that the second actuator is to move the roof sections closer together to more closely store the sections in the fully retracted position. Regarding claim 32, if actuator 42 were considered the primary actuator it does not move the entire convertible roof, and if actuator 32 were considered the primary actuator then the

Art Unit: 3612

secondary actuator 42 would not be below the beltline and not move the roof at a positional range between the half-retracted and the fully retracted positions. Warner (US Patent 2,812,975) discloses a convertible roof system with two actuators. However, the first actuator of Warner moves the roof system to the vertical position and the second actuator collapses the roof sections. The independent claims of the application require that the first (primary) actuator move the roof to the retracted position and the second actuator moves the roof to a more compact retracted position. Therefore the Warner patent does not meet the limitations of the independent claims 1, 17 and 23. Regarding claim 32, Warner does not disclose that the secondary actuator is always located below the beltline of the vehicle.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

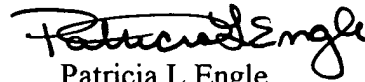
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia L Engle whose telephone number is (703) 306-5777.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 to 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, D. Glenn Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3612

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patricia L Engle

Examiner

Art Unit 3612

ple  
September 16, 2004